

Message Text

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TAGS:PFOR, SP, PO

SUBJECT: SPANISH-PORTUGUESE RELATION: AREILAZA-ANTUNES MEETING

REF: MADRID 1038, LISBON 859

1. SPANISH FONMIN AREILZA AND PORTUGUESE FONMIN ANTUNES
MET FEB 12 IN GUARDA, DISTRICT CAPITAL NAR
SPANISH BORDER. THE TWO SIGNED TREATY MARKING
LIMITS OF CONTINENTAL SHELF, TREATY ON LIMITS OF TERRITORIAL
SEA, AND AN ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL
TO EXISTING AGREEMENT REGARDING MUTUAL EXPLOITATION OF
MINHO RIVER. JOINT COMMUNIQUE NOTED ADDITIONAL
TOPICS DISCUSSED AS FOLLOWS:

-- IMPROVED CULTURAL RELATIONS:

-- PROPOSAL TO CONSTRUCT INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE OVER GUADIANA
RIVER AT SOUTHERNMOST BORDER;

-- GREATER TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE COOPERATION
ON CUSTOMS;

-- POSSIBILITY OF RESUMING OFFICIAL QUOTATION OF ESCUDO
IN SPAIN;

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-- MEETING OF COMMITTEES ON COMMERCIAL EXCHANGE AND

INDUSTRIAL COOPERATION;

-- PROBLEMS OF SPANISH INDUSTRIES AFFECTED BY PORTUGUESE
NATIONALIZATIONS;

-- COOPERATION IN TOURISM;

-- INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL QUESTIONS WITH FOCUS ON
EUROPE, MEDITERRANEAN REGION AND AFRICA.

THE TWO AGREED TO REGULAR CONSULTATIONS, AND ANTUNES
WAS INVITED TO VISIT MADRID IN NEAR FUTURE.

2. FONMIN DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION, WHO PARTICIPATED IN
MEETING, CHARACTERIZED ATMOSPHERE TO US AS "QUITE
POSITIVE" ALTHOUGH SEVERAL DIFFICULT ISSUES WERE LEFT
UNRESOLVED. TREATIES ON CONTINENTAL SHELF AND TERRITORIAL
SEA ARE ROUTINE BILATERAL APPLICATIONS OF 1958 GENEVA AGREEMENTS
FOR CONTIGUOUS ZONES OF MINHO AND GUADIANA RIVERS.
FONMIN OFFICIAL SAID SOME PROGRESS HAD BEEN MADE ON
SETTLEMENT OF SPANISH CLAIMS, BUT THAT THIS COMPLICATED
PROBLEM WOULD REQUIRE MORE TIME. HE ADDED THAT AGREEMENT
HAD NOT YET BEEN REACHED ON WHAT PORTUGAL CONSIDERED
VERY IMPORTANT PROBLEM OF SPANISH EXCHANGE OF ESCUDO.

3. COMMENT: FROM GOP POINT OF VIEW, MEETING WILL BE
CONSIDERED SUCCESSFUL -- UP TO A POINT. SACKING OF
SPANISH EMBASSY LAST FALL WAS WIDELY DEPLORED BY BULK
OF PORTUGUESE POPULACE. HENCE GOP WELCOMES SYMBOLISM
INHERENT IN AREILZA-ANTUNES MEETING AS DEMONSTRATING
GOP-GOS RELATIONS ARE BACK ON AN EVEN KEEL. MAIN
SUBJECT OF GOP'S CONCERN -- ACTIVITIES OF EXILE GROUPS
IN SPAIN -- WAS PROBABLY TOO SENSITIVE TO INCLUDE IN
COMMUNIQUE BUT UNQUESTIONABLY CAME UP ON ONE WAY OR ANOTHER.
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